

Message Text

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ACTION L-03

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 NEA-10 ADP-00 IO-13 CAB-09 CIAE-00

COME-00 DODE-00 EB-11 INR-10 NSAE-00 RSC-01 FAA-00

AF-10 ARA-16 EA-11 DOTE-00 SY-10 USSS-00 PA-03

USIA-15 PRS-01 SS-15 NSC-10 AID-20 OIC-04 SCA-01 M-03

A-01 RSR-01 /204 W

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R 100530Z AUG 73

FM USINT CAIRO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3567

INFO AMCONSUL MONTREAL

C O N F I D E N T I A L CAIRO 2394

FOR US REP ICAO

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS PFOR ETRN

SUBJECT: CIVAIR: ICAO EXTRAORDINARY ASSEMBLY/

DIPLOMATIC CONFERENCE--ROME, AUGUST 28-

SEPTEMBER 21, 1973

REF: STATE 154149

1. AIDE MEMOIRE CONTAINED REFTEL WAS DELIVERED BY USINTOFF TO MFA DEPUTY DIRECTOR FOR INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS OMAR SIRRI IN COMPANY OF DESK OFFICER AUGUST 7. SIRRI STATED THAT PREPARATIONS FOR CONFERENCE WERE STILL UNDERWAY, AND FINAL DECISIONS AS TO WHO WOULD GO, OR WHAT GOE POSITION WOULD BE, HAVE NOT BEEN MADE. HE STATED, HOWEVER, THAT MFA OFFICIAL WITH BOTH LEGAL AND POLITICAL BACKGROUND, AND AVIATION MINISTRY OFFICIAL, WOULD ATTEND.

2. SIRRI'S DESK OFFICER, WHEN ASKED WHAT VIEWS EGYPTIANS
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MIGHT TAKE TO CONFERENCE, REPLIED THAT GOE WAS NOT

ENTHUSIASTIC ABOUT A "FOURTH" CONVENTION, FOLLOWING UPON THOSE OF TOKYO, HAGUE AND MONTREAL. EGYPTIAN POSITION HAD BEEN CLEAR IN MONTREAL WHEN IT HAD TRIED TO PUT FORTH VIEW THAT TERRORISM BY STATES, AS WELL AS BY INDIVIDUALS OR GROUPS, SHOULD BE CONSIDERED WITHIN CONTEXT OF HAZARDS TO AVIATION SECURITY. HE ASKED IF US MIGHT CONSIDER EXPANDING SCOPE OF DISCUSSIONS IN ROME CONFERENCE TO COVER TERRORISM BY STATES.

3. USINTOFF REPLIED THAT US POSITION CONTAINED AIDE MEMOIRE SEEMED QUITE CLEAR, AND THAT BROADENED DISCUSSION WOULD GREATLY REDUCE CHANCES OF AGREEMENT BEING REACHED. GOE SHOULD NOTE THAT US AIDE MEMOIRE WAS VERY FLEXIBLE ON APPROACH TO AVIATION SECURITY, AND WAS DESIGNED TO ENSURE BROADEST INTERNATIONAL CONSENSUS ON CRITICAL ISSUE OF SAFETY OF AIR PASSENGERS OF ALL STATES.

4. COMMENT: SIRRI SAT BY SOMEWHAT BEMUSED BY HIS DESK OFFICER'S RESURRECTION OF ISSUE OF TERRORISM BY STATES WHICH, WHILE IT APPEARED TO BE A SPUR-OF-MOMENT ATTEMPT TO SCORE DEBATING POINTS, MAY BE REFLECTED BY EGYPTIAN DELEGATION AT ROME CONFERENCE. CANADIANS, WHO HAD CALLED ON FOREIGN MINISTRY SAME DAY TO DISCUSS ICAO ROME MEETING, HAVE SAME IMPRESSION. THEY WERE MET BY A SOMEWHAT STRONGER POSITION ON THE LACK OF NEED FOR ANOTHER CONVENTION, AND IT WAS EXPLAINED TO THEM THAT THE PLETHORA OF CONVENTIONS ALREADY EXTANT MADE ANOTHER ONE REDUNDANT. BRITISH HAVE TOLD US THAT IN THEIR PAST CONVERSATIONS ON AVIATION SECURITY GOE HAS TAKEN THE POSITION THAT IT WOULD BE BETTER TO REVISE EXISTING CONVENTIONS THAN FORMULATE ANOTHER.
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